

Amendments to the claims.

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

Listing of the claims

Claim 1 (Previously presented). A process for the preparation of a recombinant polypeptide, comprising the steps of

- a) fermenting a prokaryotic host cell comprising a periplasm and being transformed with a recombinant expression system capable of effecting secretion of the polypeptide into the periplasm, wherein the fermentation is performed in a fermentation medium under conditions such that the polypeptide is secreted into the periplasm of the host cell, and
- b) interrupting the further processing of the fermentation harvest broth and maintaining it under defined conditions of temperature and pH prior to extraction.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Previously presented). A process according to claim 1, wherein the further processing of the fermentation harvest broth is interrupted for a period of about one hour 12 hours to about 72 hours.

Claim 4 (Previously presented). A process according to claim 1, wherein the further processing of the fermentation harvest broth is interrupted for a period of about 12 hours to about 48 hours.

Claim 5 (Currently amended). A process according to claim 1, wherein the further processing of the fermentation harvest broth is interrupted for a period of about 12 hours~~[,]~~ to about 24 hours~~or about 48 hours~~.

Claim 6 (Previously presented). A process according to claim 1, wherein the interruption of the further processing of the fermentation harvest broth is performed at a temperature of about 2 °C to about 65 °C.

Claim 7 (Previously presented). A process according to claim 1, wherein the interruption of the further processing of the fermentation harvest broth is performed at a temperature of about 4 °C to about 25 °C.

Claim 8 (Currently amended). A process according to claim 1, wherein the interruption of the further processing of the fermentation harvest broth is performed at a temperature of ~~about 4 °C, about 10 °C, about 15 °C, about 20 °C or to~~ about 25 °C.

Claim 9 (Previously presented). A process according to claim 1, wherein the pH value of the fermentation harvest broth is maintained between about 4 to about 10 during step b).

Claim 10 (Previously presented). A process according to claim 1, wherein the pH value of the fermentation harvest broth is maintained between about 5 to about 9 during step b).

Claim 11 (Previously presented). A process according to claim 1, wherein the pH value of the fermentation harvest broth is maintained between about 6 to about 8 during step b).

Claim 12 (Previously presented). A process according to claim 1, wherein the pH value of the fermentation harvest broth is maintained at about 7 during step b).

Claim 13 (Currently amended). A process according to claim 1, wherein the further processing of the fermentation harvest broth is interrupted for a period of about 12 hours, ~~about 24 hours or to about 48 hours and at a temperature of about 4 °C, about 10 °C, about 15 °C, about 20 °C or to about 25 °C.~~

Claim 14 (Previously presented). A process according to claim 1, wherein the fermentation harvest broth is concentrated prior to step b).

Claim 15 (Previously presented). A process according to claim 1, wherein the fermentation harvest broth is concentrated by centrifugation or micro filtration prior to step b).

Claim 16 (Previously presented). A process according to claim 1, wherein step b) is performed in the fermenter.

Claim 17 (Previously presented). A process according to claim 1, wherein the prokaryotic host cell is a Gram-negative bacterium.

Claim 18 (Original). A process according to claim 17, wherein the Gram-negative bacterium is selected from the group consisting of *Escherichia sp.*, *Pseudomonas sp.*, *Enterobacter sp.*, *Erwinia sp.*, *Campylobacter sp.*, *Proteus sp.*, *Aeromonas sp.* and *Vitreoscilla sp.*

Claim 19 (Original). A process according to claim 17, wherein the Gram-negative bacterium is *Escherichia coli*.

Claim 20 (Currently amended). A process according to claim 1, wherein the recombinant polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of an antibody, a hormone or and an immunomodulating agent.

Claim 21 (Currently amended). A process according to claim 1, wherein the recombinant polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of a growth hormone, a growth factor, an interferon, a cytokine, an enzyme, an enzyme inhibitor or , and an antibody fragment.

Claim 22 (Currently amended). A process according to claim 1, wherein the recombinant polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of a Fab-fragment, human growth hormone, interferon alpha-2d or , and granulocyte colony-stimulating factor.

Claim 23 (Canceled).